

ining how the theorists themselves responded pragmatically to world-shattering events. He also throws down the gauntlet to those who would impose new burdens on the study of the movement by claiming that syndicalism was a nascent form of working-class fascism. In one of his last chapters, entitled “Diverging Paths”, Jennings demonstrates that militant leaders and intellectuals alike subsequently came to position themselves in squares all over the political map. That this was so should lay to rest the “bad seed” theory of syndicalism and allow us to regard the movement for what it was: a viable alternative to statism and political control and an effective vehicle for the expression of French working-class demands.

Barbara Mitchell

SINCLAIR, LOUIS. *Trotsky: A Bibliography*. Scolar Press, Aldershot 1989. xix, 1350 pp. (in 2 vols.) £ 85.00.

At first sight this book appears to be a revised edition of Sinclair’s *Leon Trotsky: A Bibliography* (1972). This had dealt only with Trotsky’s *published* writings – inevitably, since Trotsky had sold his voluminous political correspondence to the University of Harvard shortly before his death with the condition that an embargo be placed on the material until 1980. In the meantime Sinclair’s survey of Trotsky’s published works continued to meet the needs not just of students of international Trotskyism, but also the broader circles of Sovietologists. If the presentation of bibliographic data was perhaps not entirely conventional (books, papers, articles in periodicals, newspaper articles, interviews were not arranged separately), the strict chronological summary of Trotsky’s publications has proved to be extremely useful, especially because the indexes, which are arranged according to subject and translation, are cross referenced, and because there are concordances to periodicals, books and suchlike.

When the embargo on the Trotsky papers held at Harvard expired in 1980 Sinclair at last had the opportunity to make a complete summary of *all* of Trotsky’s writings. Half-way through this work he was astonished to hear that the Hoover Institute and the International Institute of Social History held part of the archives of Trotsky’s son, as well as incomplete files relating to the International (Trotskyite) Secretariat of the 1930s which contained hundreds of hitherto unknown letters and papers by Trotsky. Additional writings were also found among the papers of thirteen militants (among them J. P. Cannon, M. Eastman, and G. Vereeken).

While the chronological summary of Trotsky’s works in the 1972 bibliography contained around 4625 items published before his murder in August 1940, the 1989 survey contains another 600. It also lists a further 7475 unpublished items covering the same period; almost all of these are letters (from Trotsky).¹ Because of this the unpublished writings form the major bulk of the 1989 summary and the description of the work as a bibliography is perhaps too narrow a description of its contents.

On the other hand the chronological survey of material dating from between

¹ All these figures are approximate because Sinclair – perhaps understandably – did not number the bibliographical entries.

August 1940 to the mid-1980s is rather more limited: it contains about 1000 entries. These include publications by political organizations, but also a number of Trotsky's classic works (like *Literature and Revolution*, *My life*, and *Stalin*). A number of editions of his collected works have also been published, of which the French *Oeuvres*, edited by Pierre Broué, is the most ambitious.

The quantities are impressive indeed, and the method employed, of strict chronological presentation, with references to later reprints and/or translations, also turns out to be a valuable and useful approach in the 1989 summary, which has three times as many items as its precursor. The frequency with which visitors to the reading room of the IISG library resort to Sinclair's book confirms this. Remarkably, as a result of the publication of the reference works by Sinclair and W. Lubitz,² there is now more bibliographical material available on Trotsky than on Lenin or Stalin.

After nearly thirty years of continued bibliographical research on Trotsky and on the Trotskyist movement of the 1930s³ it must have been a source of great satisfaction to Sinclair to have had the opportunity to round off his work with this Scholar Press edition. Shortly after it was published he died, on 7 July 1990, at the age of 81.

Leo van Rossum

MORGAN, KEVIN. *Against Fascism and War. Ruptures and continuities in British Communist politics, 1935–41*. Manchester University Press, Manchester, New York 1989; distr. excl. in the USA and Canada by St. Martin's Press, New York. viii, 328 pp. £ 40.00.

The political history of the world communist parties at the beginning of World War Two, involving the rapid change in policy towards the acceptance of the imperialist war thesis, has been analysed with varying degrees of thoroughness in different countries. In Europe there has been a considerable polemical literature in France, and a degree of revisionism in Poland for at least the last two decades, but Britain has long been missing a detailed chronology and evaluation. In April 1979 a one-day conference was held in London on the early months of the war, but the transcription of the proceedings was not published until 1984 (J. Attfield and S. Williams (eds), *1939: The Communist Party of Great Britain and the War*). The main reason for the delay in publication, so it was noted in the Preface had been the unsuccessful search for the verbatim record of the minutes of the crucial meeting of the Central Committee of the British Party – that of 2/3 October 1939 – which approved the change of political line to total opposition to the war. It was known that this verbatim account existed but it proved impossible to dig them out of the Comintern archives in Moscow. Noreen Branson published the third volume of the history of the British Communist Party in 1985. Her book, which unlike the previous two

² W. Lubitz, *Trotsky Bibliography. A classified list of published items about Trotsky and Trotskyism. Second totally revised and expanded edition* (Munich, 1988).

³ Louis Sinclair, *Documents & Discussions 1930–1940* (Glasgow, 1981, typescript); Louis Sinclair, *The IS Papers. Source material for the history of the 4th International* (Glasgow, 1984, typescript).